



**ST. ANDREW'S  
UNITED CHURCH**  
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO



*"My long history with St. Andrew's  
Community of Faith began when I  
was born in early 1960."*

*~ Karen Gooch*



November 19, 2024

Dear Member and Friends of the St. Andrew's Faith Community:

My parents joined St. Andrew's a few years before I was born when they moved to North Bay. Before I was three months old, I was baptized (along with a dozen other babies) in our beautiful sanctuary by Rev. Frank Stymiest on Mother's Day.

I attended Sunday school until I was confirmed in the Spring of 1973, presided over by Rev. John Harries, an event that made the *North Bay Nugget!*

During my time in High School, the church became my safe weekend hangout. A group of teenagers from various backgrounds organized monthly community dances in the gym. In the age of disco music, we even had a mirror ball hanging from the gym ceiling. It was during this time, at 16 years old, that I discovered my true passion for singing when I joined the Senior Choir. Singing continues to be an important way for me to express my faith.



In August 1985, Rev. Jim Sinclair performed my marriage ceremony during a small evening service at St. Andrew's.

Over the years, whenever possible, I prioritized spending time and donating money to support the work of the church. I have supported many church events and fundraising dinners.

I first joined the Church Council as the youth representative when I was in high school and I have been part of several committees. Currently, I am the Secretary of the Council. I have also offered support to the administrative staff, which started when my mom worked as the Office Administrator and continues to this day. A few years ago, I expanded my church horizons to include participation in the wider United Church community when I became Secretary of North Bay Presbytery.

After the restructuring of the church, I continued this work by becoming a member of the Pastoral Relations Commission of the Canadian Shield Regional Council.

St. Andrew's has always been my spiritual home. Just like at my actual home, St. Andrew's has been a place where I have eaten, slept (on the gym floor), and spent time with the important people in my life. Just like my actual home, it is important to take care of the practical things needed to keep things running smoothly.

In the church, spending time is important to nurture relationships and I have seen what volunteers can accomplish. However, money is also needed to pay for the upkeep of the building and to hire the people who are needed to provide expertise, support, and guidance.

In the past, I have not always been able to donate as much money to St. Andrew's as I would like. In recent years when I have had more resources made available to me, I have tried to be more intentional about my giving, including making regular monthly donations.

**While thinking about writing this letter in support of our fall financial appeal, I decided to review my donations and I intend to increase my monthly donation to move up one-step on the donation ladder (see next page).**

I am inviting you to consider doing the same. You may not be able to move up a step, but perhaps you could consider increasing your **GIVINGS** by a dollar or two, every month. If you are in the habit of making one or two larger donations in a year, perhaps you could think about joining the Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) program. Having more people making regular monthly donations ensures a more predictable income stream, which helps the church when paying regular expenses (such as payroll) and assists with the budgeting process in the future.

**During this season of gratitude and thanksgiving, I ask you to try and be intentional in your giving, to help ensure the work of feeding people's souls and bodies can continue here at St. Andrew's.**

Whether you are able to offer time or money to support this important work, all gifts will be received gratefully.

May the peace of Christ be with you.



**P.S. Thank you for taking the time to consider the best way that you can support St. Andrew's.**

**399 Cassells Street, North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4**  
**T: 705.472.7680**  
**[standrews-northbay.ca](http://standrews-northbay.ca)**  
**Charitable registration number 108006552RR0001**

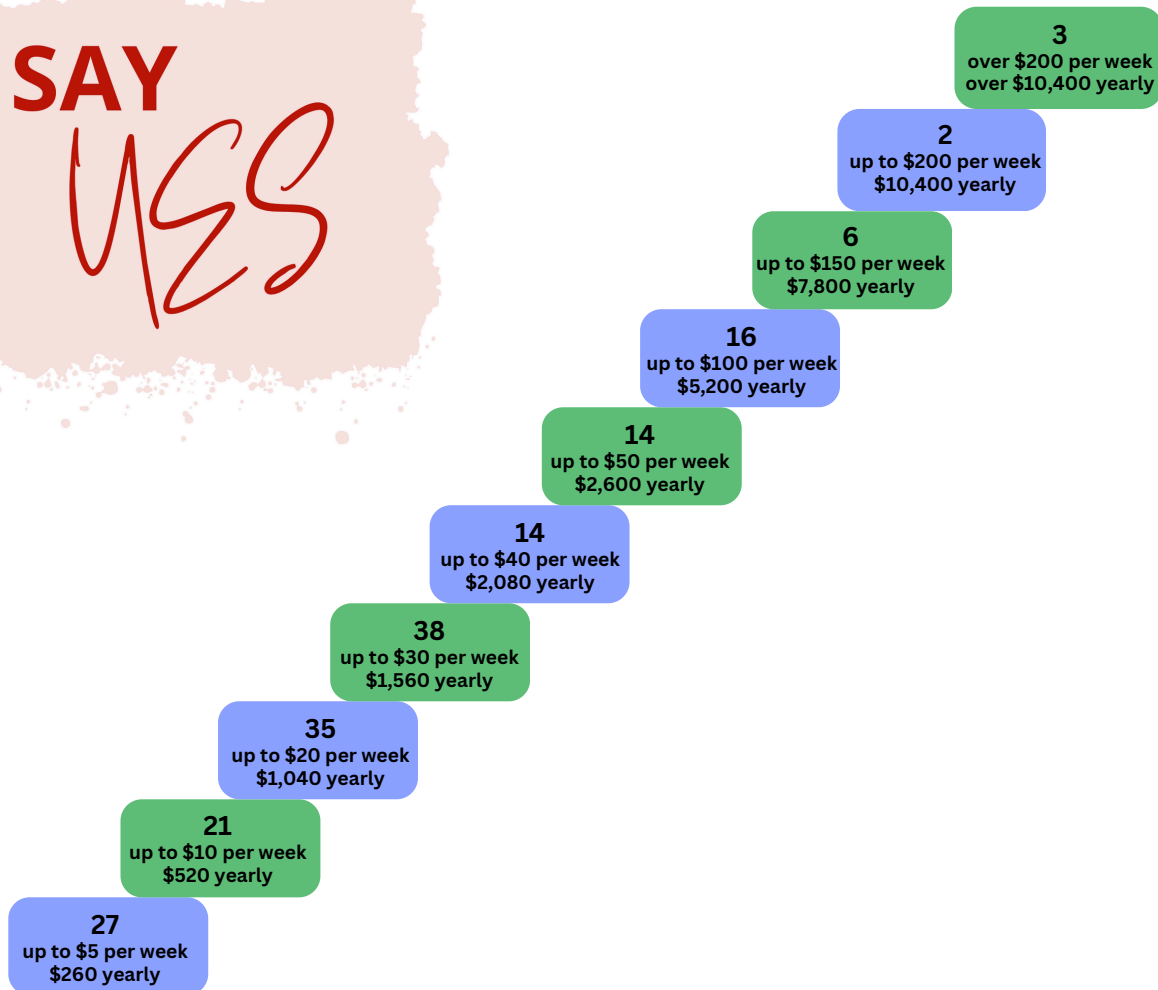
**Join Karen,  
take the next step!**



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**SAY  
YES**



**This step chart was created to try and help you visualize the breakdown of St. Andrew's United Church's generous givings.**

**Each step indicates how many people are giving up to an amount each week, and yearly.**

**We are asking you to prayerfully consider increasing your weekly offering to the next step.**

**If you require information on your current donations, please contact Janet Ross, St. Andrew's Bookkeeper.**



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**standrews-northbay.ca**

**Charitable registration number 10800655RR001**

**SAY**

*YES*



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***"We give thanks for the richness of  
the Spirit around us and in the work  
we are called to do in the World."***

*Join Karen in moving up a step to support St. Andrew's work!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

It is my/our intention to contribute to the mission of God's church by committing to the following financial support for the 12 months beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to St. Andrew's General Ministry

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Mission & Service

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Other Fund \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Indicate your method of giving and amount.**

Monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Offering Envelopes \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Great News!**

An anonymous donor has pledged a **\$10,000 matching donation**. This means, that if you donate a one-time \$1,000, they will match your donation, providing a total of \$2,000 towards St. Andrew's General Operating Account.

✓ **Count me in for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ my one-time donation that will be matched to support salaries and maintenance of the Church.**

Many of us call St. Andrew's home and together we can keep it vibrant and a place everyone wants to come.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**If you have any questions, concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to call Janet Ross, Church Administrator / Bookkeeper at 705.472.7680.**